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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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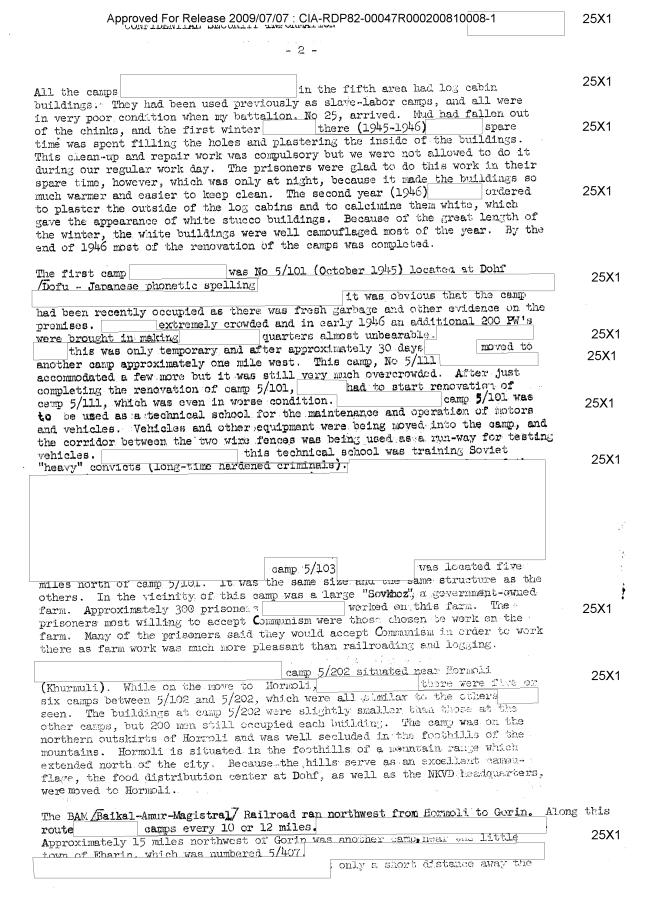
25X1 The six hundred thousand Japanese prisoners taken by the Soviets were divided into battalions of one thousand men. One battalion was assigned to a camp, making approximately 600 camps. The camps were spread geographically into at least five areas but it is possible that there were more. Each area was broken down into 25X1 districts and the camps were numbered within the district. The number five designates the area, one designates the district and Ol designates the camp. the camps in the fifth area were all very similar as to size and structure. the Magadan area were the same as to size and structure. The camps were usually square shaped and approximately 400 feet square. There was a double row of wire fences with an approximate 12-foot corridor between the fences and at each corner within the corridor was a guard tower. The camps situated near cities and just south of Komsomolsk had double wire fences, whereas all camps north of Komsomolsk and those not near populated areas had outer fences made of wooden boards. The boards were eight to 10 feet high above the ground, were two to three feet into the ground, and were between two and three inches thick, rough cut with picket-type tops. The boards were braced on the leeward side

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railroad turned due west toward Lake Baikal to tie in with the Trans-Siberian Railroad. 25X1 At each camp, two squads of soldiers, totalling about 30 men, one officer, sometimes two, and two to four non-commissioned officers were detailed as guards. They were armed with rifles and fixed bayonets. When we moved from a camp, riflemen were at the head and rear of the column, and the guards on the sides of the columns carried Burp guns. The Soviet officer in charge of the camp lived nearby. After the first year, some of these officers were replaced by civilians. these officers received In 1946. 25X1 they knew no more about future plans than the daily their orders daily, and orders disclosed. These daily orders were placed in a metal tube and dropped from a plane. 25X1 a political agent was from Moscow and the attached to the camp. agent was usually a Soviet officer. He was greatly respected and feared by all the security personnel. 3. 25X1 Even though a battalion of one thousand men was assigned to each camp, the approximate capacity of all the camps was 800. They were, of course, always overcrowded, which resulted in a great deal of discomfort for the prisoners. Occasionally, additional small groups were sent to a camp, but this was usually only temporary. Also, deaths resulting from freezing, malnutrition, and a lack of medical care sometimes brought the number of prisoners down to the usual size group. 4. Water supply was the greatest problem, particularly during the winter months. The water was hauled in by hand and in the winter it was necessary to chop 25X1 through several feet of ice. would go many months without a bath and during the winter could never get enough water for laundry purposes. One "doctor" was assigned to each camp. Some were good, but some were very incompetent and brutal. About one-half of the "doctors" were Soviet women. These women were often merciless and treated the prisoners more severely than did the men "doctors." In 1948 medical attention improved considerably. More "doctors" were assigned to each camp, and they seemed to be better qualified. Sanitation was appalling, particularly the first winter (1945 and 1946). This was by far the worst winter for the prisoners, did not have adequate 25X1 clothing. No clothes were issued whatsoever only the garmer possessed when captured. Also, there was a shortage of food the first only the garments winter, as much of the food assigned to the prisoners was stolen by the Sowiet guards. They divided it between themselves and Soviet civilians inasmuch as they did not have enough food for themselves. The standard ration consisted of 350 grams of black bread, 400 grams of cereal, 25 grams of fish, 12 grams of sugar, 800 grams of vegetable (almost always potatoes) and five grams of oil. This ration never varied throughout my entire five years imprisonment. rarely received any sugar and did not always receive the cil. About three times a year meat was given in place of fish. Until the last couple of years, never received the full ration of the other items, and only occasionally 25X1 receive full quantities in the last two years. The food also improved somewhat in quality.

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The first six to ten months of my imprisonment, the prisoners were treated very cruelly; but in mid-1946 there was a slight change for the better, and by 1947 there was quite a definite change. The food improved, somewhat better clothing was provided, and recreation was introduced. There was a great deal of discrimination shown between those who accepted Communism and those who remained reactionists, however. A limited number of musical instruments were available, and costumes and other paraphernalia was furnished, sparingly, for plays and shows. The camp political agent supervised the entertainment given by the prisoners. These improvements were, of course, well synchronized with the political indoctrination program.

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